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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: UEDA, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3743

Serial No.: 09/044,030

Filed: March 19, 1998

Examiner: ATKINSON, C.

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 7704

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 31, 2002

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached. Please note that partial English translations of three references disclosed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 16, 2002 are enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action or a Notice of Allowance. A check is attached hereto which covers the \$ 180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

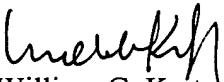
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the

documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340. Two copies of this authorization are attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



William G. Kratz, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/nrp

Atty. Docket No. 980400
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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Enclosures: PTO-1449 and
references (4)
Check for \$ 180.00